

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Request for Information Regarding the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008

**Comment On:** EBSA-2009-0010-0001

Request for Information Regarding the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008

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## General Comment

Comments regarding Regulatory Guidance USCG-2007-27022

page 19157, II B specific areas 1 and 4

re; CMS-4140\_-NC

I am a clinician who provides mental health treatment to individuals with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and Mood Disorders.

I believe that the parity regulations, based on legal reviews of the parity statute should require that employers and plans pay for the same range and scope of services for Behavioral Treatments as they do for Med Surg benefits and that a plan cannot be more restrictive in their managed care criteria and reviews for MH and SA disorders when compared to Med Surg. Today plans are being more restrictive in how they review evidenced based Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatments when compared to Med Surg treatments. This violates both the intent and letter of the parity statute and we hope that the regulations will clarify that this can't continue.

Thank you very much,

Alan J. Strohmayer, Ph.D.